

From: [Urdiales, Aaron](#)
To: [Elsen, Henry](#); [Smidinger, Betsy](#); [Greene, Nikia](#); [Vranka, Joe](#); [Jim Freeman](#); [Mutter, Andrew](#); [Wardell, Christopher](#); [Barnicoat, Dana](#)
Subject: RE: Meconium Study actions write up for Deb Thomas
Date: Thursday, January 9, 2020 11:46:26 AM

Henry – All,

I just sent Kai an email to ensure he is comfortable with us sharing publicly at this time. I'm assuming he is ok with it, but I want to verify before we make a decision on some type of public release like a press release. I believe the CD group call this afternoon is ok based on my follow-up with him if everyone is onboard with that approach.

I will let everyone know shortly so we can make a final decision.

Aaron Urdiales, Branch Chief
Superfund Remedial Branch
EPA Region 8, 8SEM-RB
Phone: 303-312-6844

From: Elsen, Henry <Elsen.Henry@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2020 11:25 AM
To: Smidinger, Betsy <Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov>; Greene, Nikia <Greene.Nikia@epa.gov>; Vranka, Joe <vranka.joe@epa.gov>; Jim Freeman <james.freeman2@usdoj.gov>; Mutter, Andrew <mutter.andrew@epa.gov>; Wardell, Christopher <Wardell.Christopher@epa.gov>; Barnicoat, Dana <Barnicoat.Dana@epa.gov>; Urdiales, Aaron <Urdiales.Aaron@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Meconium Study actions write up for Deb Thomas

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All:

Thanks to Aaron for this.

I think this is a significant development that will address several calls for additional followup science to the meconium study, from Dr. Ray and the Montana Standard among others. My questions to you all are:

1. Should we cover this with the CD group at our call this afternoon?
2. Should we let the public know this will occur in some way? A press release or something similar could cover: a. this ATSDR/MDPPHS effort and b. EPA's own evaluation efforts which will be discussed with the county board of health on Feb. 5.

Just my thoughts – this is a program/public affairs call of course.

Henry Elsen

Senior Assistant Regional Counsel
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From: Urdiales, Aaron <Urdiales.Aaron@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 08, 2020 3:56 PM
To: Elsen, Henry <Elsen.Henry@epa.gov>
Cc: Smidinger, Betsy <Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov>; Vranka, Joe <vranka.joe@epa.gov>; Greene, Nikia <Greene.Nikia@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Meconium Study actions write up for Deb Thomas

Thanks for the reminder to send something out to the group Henry,

This is the response I received from Kai:

“at the RA meeting on this topic, we announced that our ATSDR cooperative agreement grantees at MT DPHHS are taking the lead on this work. The toxicologist whom we fund there is drafting a Health Consultation that will be reviewed and cleared by CDC/ATSDR. Air, soil and water data are being evaluated to estimate dose for the metals in question.”

Kai expects the document to be cleared by late February and they’ve committed to keeping us posted on the progress toward a final document.

Please let me know if you need anything else,

Aaron Urdiales, Branch Chief
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From: Elsen, Henry <Elsen.Henry@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2020 2:56 PM
To: Urdiales, Aaron <Urdiales.Aaron@epa.gov>
Cc: Smidinger, Betsy <Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov>; Vranka, Joe <vranka.joe@epa.gov>; Greene, Nikia <Greene.Nikia@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Meconium Study actions write up for Deb Thomas

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Aaron:

At our last internal call, I think you said you would check in with the appropriate people about whether ATSDR is willing to do a follow-up study on meconium, looking at existing data and exposure pathways. The attached comments from Dan Wall describe such a study towards the end of the document. See "ATSDR is working with MT DPPHS to model the feasibility of residents being exposed to environmental media at levels that would be considered harmful for Zn, Cu and Mn. Initial calculations using existing soil, air and water data indicate this would only be possible thru unrealistic exposure assumptions. MT DPPHS will be performing a more rigorous evaluation with ATSDR consultation." That is consistent with what I saw Sandy Spence describe in an email to the RA.

However, Dan later asked that this version of the document be disregarded.

We have a CD group call tomorrow, and it would be nice to have up to date information about EPA's health study plans. Any information would be helpful.

Thanks,
Henry Elsen
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From: Wall, Dan <wall.dan@epa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2020 4:58 PM

To: Elsen, Henry <Elsen.Henry@epa.gov>; Wardell, Christopher <Wardell.Christopher@epa.gov>; Mutter, Andrew <mutter.andrew@epa.gov>; Mylott, Richard <Mylott.Richard@epa.gov>; Partridge, Charles <Partridge.Charles@epa.gov>; Greene, Nikia <Greene.Nikia@epa.gov>; Vranka, Joe <vranka.joe@epa.gov>; Smidinger, Betsy <Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov>; Urdiales, Aaron <Urdiales.Aaron@epa.gov>; Stavnes, Sandra <Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Meconium Study actions write up for Deb Thomas

I think this still needs work and would be glad to take a look at the next version. Andrew is your shop taking the lead on this?

Is there any reason that we don't just use the briefing document we put together for 12/20/19? Not much has changed.

From: Elsen, Henry <Elsen.Henry@epa.gov>

Sent: Monday, January 6, 2020 10:25 AM

To: Wardell, Christopher <Wardell.Christopher@epa.gov>; Mutter, Andrew <mutter.andrew@epa.gov>; Mylott, Richard <Mylott.Richard@epa.gov>; Wall, Dan <wall.dan@epa.gov>; Partridge, Charles <Partridge.Charles@epa.gov>; Greene, Nikia <Greene.Nikia@epa.gov>; Vranka, Joe <vranka.joe@epa.gov>; Smidinger, Betsy <Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov>; Urdiales, Aaron <Urdiales.Aaron@epa.gov>; Stavnes, Sandra <Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov>

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Hi all – Thanks to Dana for putting this together. Attached are my redline suggestion, which are mostly editorial. I do raise a substantive issue at the end of the document in a bubble comment for your consideration.

Henry Elsen
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From: Wardell, Christopher <Wardell.Christopher@epa.gov>

Sent: Monday, January 06, 2020 9:28 AM

To: Mutter, Andrew <mutter.andrew@epa.gov>; Mylott, Richard <Mylott.Richard@epa.gov>; Wall, Dan <wall.dan@epa.gov>; Partridge, Charles <Partridge.Charles@epa.gov>; Greene, Nikia <Greene.Nikia@epa.gov>; Vranka, Joe <vranka.joe@epa.gov>; Elsen, Henry <Elsen.Henry@epa.gov>; Smidinger, Betsy <Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov>; Urdiales, Aaron <Urdiales.Aaron@epa.gov>; Stavnes, Sandra <Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov>

Subject: Meconium Study actions write up for Deb Thomas

Hi all,

Andrew expressed to me that Deb Thomas would like a one page write up on what occurred regarding the Meconium study in Butte and our actions to review and inform the community of EPA's findings. Dana has drafted a great start to this so please edit this and I will get this to Andrew and Deb by the end of the week. Thanks.

Chris Wardell
Community Involvement Section Chief
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wardell.christopher@epa.gov

From: Barnicoat, Dana <Barnicoat.Dana@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2020 3:37 PM
To: Wardell, Christopher <Wardell.Christopher@epa.gov>
Subject: Draft

Chris,

Please see the attached. It is a rough draft of the meconium study and EPA events. Please let me know if this is close to what Betsey wants. I am sure I'm way off but here is my stab at it. Who I should include in revising and updating what I have here.

Thanks and have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

Dana

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